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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01887 250638Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
/085 W
----------061552 250643Z /20
R 221500Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6434
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE POUCH
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO POUCH
AMEMBASSY MASERU POUCH
AMEMBASSY MBABANE POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF, BEXP,
SUBJECT: REPORTED GROUP AREAS ACT PROSECUTIONS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1851; JOHANNESBURG A-99; JOHANNESBURG A-100

1. SUMMARY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S RECENT REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF BLACKS AS STORE MANAGERS IN AREAS RESERVED FOR WHITES (SEE REFERENCED MESSAGES) APPEARS TO BE PART OF A BROADER ANACHRONISTIC CAMPAIGN TO RESTRICT THE EMPLOYMENT OF NON-WHITES, INCLUDING ASIANS, AS MANAGERS UNDER THE GROUP AREAS ACT. THE POLICE ARE REPORTEDLY SYSTEMATICALLY INVESTIGATING VIOLATORS OF THIS LEGISLATIN IN PRETORIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE TRANSVAAL. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 01887 250638Z

2. CLIVE EMDON REPORTS IN THE JULY 22 EDITIO OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL THAT AT LEAST FOUR ASIAN BUSIESMEN HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PROSECUTED FOR MANAGING SHOPS IN WHITE AREAS AND SEVEN MORE CASES ARE PENDING IN PRETORIA. APPLYING THE SAME GROUP AREAS LEGISLATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT INVOLKED TO STOP THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF BLACKS AS MANAGERS IN WHITE AREAS (JOHANNES-BURG 1851) THE POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY SAT OUTSIDE STORES IN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

PRETORIA "WATCHING TO SEE WHO OPENED THEM, WHO BANKED THE MONEY--
ALL SEEMINGLY AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH WHO WAS CONTROLLING THE
BUSINESSES."

3. ON JULY 11 THE GROUP AREAS SECTION OF THE POLICE SUCCESS-
FULLY PROSECUTED A WHITE PRETORIA BUSINESSMAN, HIS COMPANY AND
A NON-WHITE EMPLOYEE. THE CHARGE WAS FOR EMPLOYING A
"DISQUALIFIED PERSON" WHO WAS EFFECTIVELY IN CONTROL OF THE
BUSINESS -- AN ASIAN MANAGER IN A WHITE AREA. THE COMPANY WAS
FINED FIFTY RAND (ABOUT 58 US DOLLARS); THE OWNER AND HIS
ASIAN EMPLOYEE WERE CAUTIONED BUT NOT FIRED AND THE ASIAN WAS
ORDERED OFF THE PREMISES BY AUGUST 31. A POLICE OFFICER TOLD
THE COURT THE PREMISES HAD BEEN WATCHED FOR A FULL YEAR UNTIL
MAY.

4. IN THREE OTHER RECENT CASES IN THE TRANSVAAL TOWNS OF
GROBLERSDAL, MIDDLEBURG, AND BRONHORSTSPRUIT, ACCORDING TO
EMDON, ASIAN BUSINESSMEN PAID ADMISSION OF GUILT FINES FOR
CONTRAVENING GROUP AREAS LEGISLATION. ANOTHER SEVEN
PRETORIA COMPANIES HAVE RECEIVED SUMMONSES.

5. COMMENT: THE SAME ISSUE OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL EDITORIALLY
CASTIGATES WHAT IT CALLS THE "CONVOLUTED LOGIC OF MR M.C. BOTHA
(MINISTER FOR BANTU AFFAIRS) FOR BANNING BLACK MANAGERS IN
SO-CALLED WHITE AREAS. "WHERE ELSE BUT IN SUCH A DELUSIONED
WORLD CAN THERE BE 'WHITE AREAS' POPULATED BY MILLIONS OF
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PAGE 03 JOHANN 01887 250638Z

BLACKS WHO MUST FOREVER BE SECONDARY TO WHITES? THIS IS THE
REALM TO WHICH THE NATIONALISTS ASPIRE, AND ONE WHICH THEY
CAN PRETEND THEY WILL REACH ONLY BY CONTINUING WITH A POLICY
REMOVED FROM REALITY."
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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